



Ø BEAT

COLO. SPRINGS.
COLORADO

SEPTEMBER 1977

MEETING NOTICE: The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association will meet this month on September 14 at 7:30pm in the Security Savings and Loan Building - at Platte and Union. Bob Erdmann WØNGA will bring us Part II in his series on microprocessors. (Sound familiar? Well, if Bob is called out of town this time his microprocessor will be there and bring us Part II of Bob Erdmann, so dig it.)

TWO METER SIDEBAND [sounds illegal to me] is flourishing around our area, with activity commonly reported with Albuquerque, Muskogee, Oklahoma, Wichita, Kansas City, Lincoln, Rapid City, and Laramie. These can be heard almost any evening from tropospheric scatter and aircraft reflection.

There's lots of bandspace, by the way. And at present we estimate 3-5 active stations in Pueblo, ten in the Springs, and 20 or so in Denver, with very dependable communications among the three places. Stations are being set up in Garden City and Dodge City, Kansas.

Two meter side band is not only alive and well, but we're having a ball. [Now that's gotta be illegal. Two meters is supposed to be FM.]

Ray Uberecken WØWYZ

CLUB ELECTIONS are coming up for the October meeting. The board will be a nominating committee, so let us know who we should be checking out. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the election.

THE JAYCEE PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAM "IMPULSE" last Sunday (September 11) featured an interview with a ham on amateur radio. Sorry we couldn't get the word out sooner, but I guess non-hams are the ones we wanted most to listen anyway. Thanks to the Jaycee Wives, KRDO, and Lyle Rockefeller WBØMDI. A follow-up show is planned for late October, so keep an ear out. And any words of wisdom concerning the first show would be appreciated.

P P R A A D I R E C T O R S

PRESIDENT	Mike Stansberry KØTER, 2732 E. Monument St.	475-8650
VICE-PRESIDENT	Lyle Rockefeller WBØMDI, 3715 Anemone Cir	599-7890
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Board Member	Dean Jaynes WAØPJH, 9650 Vollmer Road	634-7097
Board Member	Ray Uberecken WØWYZ, 318 Kenwood Cir.	471-7134

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The PPRAA meets at 7:30 pm on the second Wednesday of each month in the Security Savings and Loan Building, East Platte at Union Blvd.

AUGUST MINUTES: The meeting was opened at 7:40 pm. Printing of July minutes in Zero Beat was accepted. (These minutes were taken by WBØPEA; where's Dave Allen?) [Who, me?] Treasurer's report was \$636.93. Bud Widmar WBØTIB was recognized for raising \$20 for the club by selling the Amateur Radio bumper stickers. Doug Moloney WBØMHP reported for the publicity committee and his work on our club scrapbook. Bart Hayhurst WAØYOH explained his card file system indexing all our resources for emergencies--he was then presented with the Ham of the Month award for all the time and work he put in getting all that information.

Dick Schlueter WBØPNX reported on the upcoming Pikes Peak Marathon and the club's scheduled participation in it. Dave Vierling WDØDLY explained how the club would be participating in the upcoming Colorado Motorcycle Trailriders Club race in Woodland Park on September 11. October will be election month. Oak Stockton KØROL reported on the club picnic August 21 at his mountain place and handed out maps. The meeting was then adjourned and turned over to Ray WØWYZ, Charlie WØOQI and Bob WBØOXA for their presentation on the two meter world below 146 MHz.

Dave Knipping WBØPEA***

THE CLUB PICNIC was held at Oak's (KØROL) and about 50 folks turned out, including kids and four-footed friends. It rained a bit, but what's a picnic without... Anyway, many thanks to Oak, who did a good job with all that was under his control. Did someone say he volunteered for next year too?

THE PIKES PEAK MARATHON on August 14 had the help of some 14 hams and non-ham helpers to keep the event running smoothly and safely. Apparently the a-frame crew got a good dose of rain and hail on their way down afterward. Just our way of preparing them for the next blizzard. Good work, team.

[***PS: Rumor has reached this editor that Secretary TAQI forgot the club meeting and went roller skating. Good grief.]

IS IT HARD TO GET A HAM LICENSE? Guy Mitchell of Buckingham, Iowa passed the written test for an amateur radio operator's license this spring with no problems. Last year he sailed right through the Morse code exam. And all this test-taking is good preparation for what Guy will encounter in kindergarten this fall. He's only five. --Associated Press

LYLE ROCKEFELLER WBØMDI, while messing with his rig back on July 31, managed to put an 8 1/2 pound harmonic signal on the half-meter band. But instead of an FCC pink slip, Lyle has received a big doctor bill. His new son's name is Mark Lyle Rockefeller. Congratulations to Lyle and Kathy.

FOR THIS MONTH, A MYSTERY GUEST: I met him last summer while delivering a message that I'd received over the traffic nets. He was a novice at the time, but with a lot more months of operating experience than I had.

As I saw him more at club meetings I found out the many behind-the-scene jobs he did for the club. He mails the Zero Beat and distributes them to points all over town. He single-handedly copied all the local hams out of the callbook for the Colorado Ham Directory, and has spent many hours at many projects I'll never know about.

Best of all, he's always ready to help and go out of his way. I'm sure others will agree that one of the things he says most is, "That's no problem." That's especially clear when an operator or station is needed for an emergency or public service event.

But last Labor Day weekend he and Bart WØPT joined in to follow me-- by radio--safely over La Veta Pass as I flew my 31-year-old, 65-horsepower bird down to New Mexico. On my way back through the pass the following day I gave a shout, and who should be waiting for me to call? ...So he followed me through the pass again and drove to the airport to see me bring the bird down.

It was a fairly routine flight except for being my first mountain pass, but he is not a routine friend. He's been around a long time and done a lot. He worked for RCA at the Voice of America transmitters back east and later at the NBC studios in New York City until his retirement three years ago when he moved here. He even held an amateur license way back in the forties, which he picked up along with his first class commercial. But he never got to use it and started again from scratch out here. But he has surely been making up for "lost" time. Working from his car with a QRP Argonaut, he has more QSL cards that I will ever have.

He is very familiar to us on two meters here too, and no doubt many know him better than I. And I hope he doesn't mind me opening my big mouth. But if you don't know Frank Freiler WBØPAJ off the air as well as on, you should, cuz you're missing a lot. Thanks, Frank. I don't mean to put you on the spot.

FOR SALE: Feather muffin fan, \$15. Steve WBØTLP, 598-5021.

Heath SB301, SB401, Drake TR4 with AC/DC power supply. Barry WØMOG, 392, 1060.

WANTED: HW-7, HW-8, or similar QRP, solid state, 12 volt tranceiver. Please write, as I'm out of town a lot. Bill Croghan WBØKSW, 15 South 23rd St, C Sp 80904.

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YES, CLASSES WILL BE STARTING September 20 at North Jr. High. Same two rooms (118, 119) as last year, and same time (7:30-9:30 pm), and same nights (code Tuesdays, theory Thursdays). Thanks go to Jim Mullikin WBØYNT who took care of the whole thing without being asked, and Mike Stansberry KØTER and Ray Uberecken WØWYZ who will be hitting the key and books right on target as usual. It's a good time to start on a Novice ticket, or come down and let some knowledge sink in that'll do some good in everyday operating and tinkering, and toward a higher license too. The classes aren't for dummies who can't learn it on their own. They're for people who enjoy getting together with other people to learn and talk over stuff as they do. So expand your Colorado Springs horizon. Come on down.

YOU WILL NOTICE a new add in this issue. The move is on. As shown by this and other ads, folks are taking a chance for us--to give us ham equipment locally. This makes things nice for us, but I think also gives us an obligation--to check these stores out and see what they have, and what they can get expediently. Then to spread the word to other hams, and to give these merchants whatever feedback is useful concerning their goods and what we'd like to see (and buy).

As I say, they're taking a chance for us. Maybe that's just business and tough luck if it doesn't go. But I've always felt and thought that the hams in this community operated on a slightly different level than "just business." I hope I'm not just naive in saying I'd like to see it stay that way.

TAQ

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THIS MONTH'S PUZZLE seems to be figuring out where I can get us some puzzles. I'm certainly not clever enough to dream them up myself. Help. Maybe?



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I'M SORRY for making this such a last-minute Zero Beat. Seems like everything's happening at once this month and I don't even have kids to send back to school. It's almost half over, and according to what needs to get done, it shouldn't have even started yet.

I'VE HEARD OF SPEECH PROCESSERS for sideband transmission that give us more modulation and better copy on the other end. But now that I'm back on two meters I seem to be hearing a different type of processor. It's one that reduces an amateur call to one or two semi-intelligible letters or sounds. This seems to work ok if you know the voice or recognize the way the guy scrambles his call. But it's not the way our service is set up. I guess it's a pain to say all those letters one at a time and separately, but I think we owe it to ourselves and our fellows who we're working with on the air.

Steve TAQ



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SEPTEMBER 1977

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